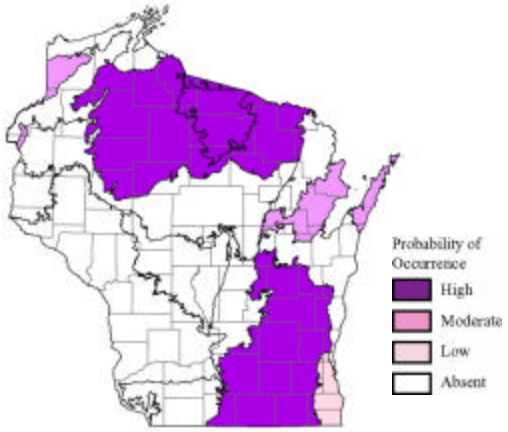
Longear Sunfish (*Lepomis megalotis*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	4
State threats:	4
State population trend:	4
Global abundance:	2
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.4
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries (Section 3.1.1) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations
Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape -community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
North Central Forest	Inland lakes
North Central Forest	Warmwater rivers
North Central Forest	Warmwater streams
Northern Highland	Inland lakes
Northern Highland	Warmwater rivers
Northern Highland	Warmwater streams
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Warmwater rivers
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Warmwater streams
Northwest Lowlands	Warmwater rivers
Southeast Glacial Plains	Inland lakes
Southeast Glacial Plains	Warmwater rivers
Southeast Glacial Plains	Warmwater streams

Threats and Issues

- Habitat degredation and loss from shoreline and watershed agriculture and urbanization threaten this species which preferes clear, shallow streams with aquatic vegetation.
- Inadvertent take because of misidentification as the more common pumpkinseed may threaten this species in specific locations.
- Non-point source pollution, including sedimentation and agricultural runoff, threatens this species which is believed to have been lost from many locations because of the effects of soil erosion and turbidity.
- Little is known about the abundance, biology and population trends of this species, which readily hybridizes with other Lepomis species and is near the northern edge of its range in Wisconsin.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Refuge areas along lakes and streams are needed to protect the few, disjunct locations where this species still persists in the northern and eastern thirds of Wisconsin. Refuges are particularly appropriate for this species because of its small home range (30-60 m) and because of the protection they could afford against inadvertent take due to misidentification.
- Habitat restoration in the few warmwater streams and rivers and inland lakes where this species occurs is needed.
- Control of non-point source pollution from urbanization and agricultural practices is needed for this species, which is intolerant of turbidity.
- More information on status and biology of this species is needed to refine and focus conservation efforts.